



**Communications Board**  
**Fire and Emergency Medical Services**  
Monroe County, New York

**Maggie Brooks**  
*County Executive*

**Laurence Vaughan**  
*Chairman*

**MINUTES OF MEETING: March 16, 2006**

**VOTING MEMBERS:** Jay Coates, Jack DeLisio, Scott Lancaster, Steve McClary, John Merklinger, Diana Pfersick, Jim Quinn, Dave Timmons, Larry Vaughan and Rick Zwaga

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS:** Mike Catalano (for Tom Coyle), Tim Czapranski, Tom Link, Mike Lissow, Ed Mager, Larry Mancine, Ed Riley and Hank Wehner

**OTHERS ATTENDING:** Bob Holmes (Perinton Ambulance), Bill Kirchgessner (MCFDOA), Steve Leuchtner (Henrietta Ambulance), and Allan Smith (Hamlin FD)

**EXCUSED:** Brian Ball, Steve Bowman, Gary Perkins and Rich Verdouw

**ABSENT:** Patty Bietry

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Vaughan at 5:00 p.m.

A quorum of voting members was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Rick Zwaga to approve the February meeting minutes, seconded by Chief Jack DeLisio. **Carried.**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communication issues needing to be addressed at this meeting.

**SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Refarming Committee** – No report.

**Digital Paging Committee** – Chairman Larry Vaughan reported the following. There are 6 departments that are deficient with their 30% down payment as of this date. A conference call was held recently between CRS and Public Safety officials. The County will accept responsibility for the approximately 500 pagers not yet paid for. All timeframes are still on schedule. A letter will be sent to the 6 departments notifying them of this decision.

Fire Coordinator Ed Riley informed the board that 6 “final pagers” are on the way. They will be thoroughly examined, and will make sure the hardware and software is in working order. The number of pagers ordered so far (approximately 3,000) should only take 3-5 business days to manufacture.

Vice-Chairman Tim Warth had several questions. First – “Is Win Beep no longer being supported by the new paging system?” Answer - John Merklinger will look into this and get back to Tim. Second – “Do we have the permanent license for inbound frequency?” Answer – we have a temporary license. There is no word yet on how long it will take as of this time. Third – What is the turnaround time for any additional pager orders? Answer – New orders will be taken during mid-summer.

Bill Kirchgessner asked Chairman Vaughan “Is there a minimum order requirement?” Answer – No. Tom Link asked Chairman Vaughan “Is the administrative paging ready?” Answer – Not until the scheduled “turn-on” date.

John Merklinger and Vice-Chairman Tim Warth will work on an “order form” to mail to respective departments and agencies.

Dave Timmons expressed concern that some departments have not had their pagers updated yet. If anyone needs assistance with this, they can contact Todd at the Radio Center (473-6969). He is able to do “firmware updates” to the temporary pagers.

**Communications Rules & Regulations Committee** – Diana Pfersick reported nothing new at this time. She is gathering suggestions on the new handbook in process and will report any updates to us at our next meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Narrowband Transition – Deputy Chief Steve McClary reported the Rochester Fire Department held a test recently. They were very satisfied with the results. A letter was sent out regarding mutual aid companies’ support. Fire Coordinator Ed Riley added that he received the letter from Chief Floyd Madison. The Fire Bureau Office sent that letter out to all chiefs in the County. So far there are no issues or concerns. The Rochester Fire Department will probably be the first to “go forward” with this narrowband transition.

## **BATTALION REPORTS**

**Battalion 1** – No report.

**Battalion 2** – No report.

**Battalion 3** – No report.

**Battalion 4** – Jay Coates reported he attended the Chiefs meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup>. There are 2 departments at this time that have concerns with the new paging transition.

**Battalion 5** – Diana Pfersick reported their battalion will meet again on April 5<sup>th</sup>. There are no issues or concerns at this time.

**911 DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – John Merklinger reported the following: ECD Region 55 met yesterday (3/15). Regarding the 700 MHz transition plan, a final vote will take place at the next meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup>. There are a total of 20 frequencies for MDT's available. Their phone upgrade is near completion. They met to apply budget money accordingly for upcoming projects. Station PC's need to be replaced. New printers are on order and should be here soon. Maintenance on PC's and monitors is done by Monroe County Information Services. There are 115 new radios and modems on order. Delivery time is approximately 8-12 weeks. They are anticipating some funding to come in from Albany as a result of a grant application recently submitted.

#### **ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE BOARD**

Since there were no other items for the good of the board, a motion to adjourn was made by Dave Timmons, seconded by Chief Jack DeLisio. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Larry Mancine, Secretary  
Fire/EMS Communications Board

**The next meeting of the Fire/EMS Communications Board is scheduled for Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Training Facility in the STEP Conference Room.**